

REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF CORNISH,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 11, 1856.

COPY OF WARNING.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Cornish, in the County of Sullivan, in said State, qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town-house in said Cornish, on Tuesday, the eleventh day of March next, at nine of the clock in the forenoon, to act on the following subjects, viz:

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.
- 2d. To choose a Town Clerk.
- 3d. To choose a Representative to represent this Town in the General Court of said State.
- 4th. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councillor, Senator, Railroad Commissioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and three County Commissioners.
- 5th. To choose Selectmen and all other necessary Town Officers.
- 6th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges the ensuing year.
- 7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to make and repair Highways the ensuing year.
- 8th. To see if the town will vote to discontinue the old road from Moody Hooks' house, to Croydon line, or any part thereof.
- 9th. To see if the town will vote to disannex lot No. 11 in School District No. 13 now occupied by Heman H. Comings and Charles Kelley and annex the same to School District No. 15.
- 10th. To see if the town will vote to disannex the farm of George Weld, from School District No. 11 in the town Cornish, and annex the same to School District No. 9 in said town, bounded as follows: North by land of Charles W. Comings, east by land of Constant W. Smith and Ichabod Smith, south by land of James Tasker, John Weld, 2d, and the highway, west by land of Amos Penniman, Silas Spalding, and Elijah Boardman, being fifty acres of land.
- 11th. To see if the town will vote to disannex the farm of James Tasker from School District No. 11 and annex the same to School District No. 9 in said Town, bounded as follows: North by land of Ichabod Smith, west by land of George Weld, John Weld, 2d, James F. Tasker, Theodore Chase, and Isaac C. and George D. Kenyon, south by land of G. A. Vinton, east by land of Jesse O. Wyman.
- 12th. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise, to paint, and furnish blinds for the Town-house.

Given under our hands and seal this twentieth day of February,
A. D. 1856.

ISRAEL HALL,
J. B. COMINGS,
WILLARD HEYWOOD, } *Selectmen
of
Cornish.*

REPORTS.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

We have assensed the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish and lands of non-resident owners, for the year of 1855, the	
sum of	\$3671 29
Also, School District No. 7,	12 52
They have paid into the Treasury the additional sums:	
Literary Fund,	111 03
Interest on School Fund,	35 00
Circus License,	30 00
Cash received of the County for the support of	
Paupers,	46 91
Railroad tax,	24 53
Making the whole amount,	<hr/> \$3931 28
Deduct cash paid State and County Treasurers,	777 87
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Leaves a balance of	\$3153 41

EXPENDITURES.

For the support of the Poor,	366 62
Alms-house expenses,	11 17
For plank and timber,	141 08
For support of Schools,	1103 10
Paid Superintending School Committee, 1854,	38 50
Bishop & Tracy for printing Reports, &c.,	
1854,	12 00
P. Merrifield for Selectman's book,	3 42
Lyman Williams damage 1854,	10 00
S. F. Redfield and others Road Commission-	
ers,	23 60
W. R. Kimball land damage,	40 00
Jacob Chase	67 00
Nathaniel Johnson	245 00
Levi Ayers	6 00
Lyman Bartlett	1 00
S. N. Bartlett	25 00
William Barton for Teachers' Institute,	28 00
Bradley Burr building new road,	198 88

Balance of receipts brought forward,		\$3153 41
Paid W. R. Kimball execution,	22 37	
Lyman Bartlett building road,	25 00	
C. W. Smith and others damage to plows,	8 00	
Stephen Williams notifying jurors,	1 00	
J. W. Bradley " "	1 25	
Harrison Leslie for School District No. 7,	12 00	
T. L. Heath painting hearse-house Cornish Flat,	2 25	
J. M. Davidson repairing " " Cornish Flat,	17 08	
J. T. Breck for oil, &c., for same,	9 60	
Chester Pike damage to wagon and harness,	15 00	
James Tasker and others for work on road and bridges,	27 28	
Hiram Little abatement on taxes,	2 50	
Lucinda Weld for clothing,	12 00	
Bishop & Tracy for printing town orders,	1 50	
James Fitch breaking out new road,	1 00	
E. D. Baker for surveying road,	1 00	
Orlando Powers making taxes,	10 00	
J. W. Bradley abatement of taxes, 1854,	6 39	
J. W. Bradley " " 1855,	37 36	
D. G. Westgate abatement of taxes 1851,	6 99	
Silas Spaling damage to wagon,	5 00	
Collector's services,	20 00	
Town Clerk's services,	18 00	
Treasurer's services,	10 00	
Selectmen's services,	96 25	
Contigent expenses,	31 78	
Amounts to		\$2720 97
Deduct this from the above leaves a balance in favor of the town of		432 44
We recommend to the inhabitants of the town of Cornish to raise to defray town charges the ensuing year the sum of		\$1000 00
Also, to repair highways and bridges the sum of		1600 00

All respectfully submitted,

ISRAEL HALL,
J. B. COMINGS,
WILLARD HEYWOOD, } Selectmen
of Cornish.

Votes Governor March 1856
Wells 143
Melcalf 198
Goodwin 7

ALMS-HOUSE REPORT.

Received of County Treasurer for support of paupers at the Alms-House, \$ 19 71

Excess of inventory above last year consisting of stock,
provisions, hay, grain, &c., 4 40

Total, \$ 24 11

For supporting this establishment, the following sum has been paid from the Treasury :

Paid for Agent for 1855 to Feb. 29, 1856, \$ 11 17

Which deducted from the above leaves a balance in favor
of the Alms-House, of \$ 12 94

An inventory and appraisal of the personal property at the Alms-house was made on the 26th of February, 1856, which amounts at par cash value to \$1450 49. An increase over last year's appraisal of \$4 40

The produce of the Farm has been as follows :—

30 tons of Hay,	30 Chickens,
150 bushels Corn,	2 Lambs,
225 " Potatoes,	8 Calves,
80 " Apples,	12 loads Pumpkins,
46 " Peas and Oats,	50 heads Cabbage,
60 " Oats,	20 pounds Wool,
3 " Beans,	4 bushels Turnips,
3 " Peas,	2 " Onions,
2 " Carrots,	825 pounds Cheese,
2 " Beets,	630 " Butter,
1 " Parsnips,	1129 " Pork,
1 barrel Cider,	900 " Beef,
21 Turkies,	100 " Mutton,

It is thought that the Grain, Provisions, &c., are sufficient for the season.

There has been at the Alms-house, during the past year, from five to sixteen inmates. One has died—and the present number is fifteen.

All respectfully submitted,

ISRAEL HALL,
J. B. COMINGS,
WILLARD HEYWOOD, } *Overseers of the Poor.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Cash on hand,	\$595 86
The amount of debt existing against the town is	285 26
	<hr/>
Leaving a balance in favor of the town of	\$310 60
The debts against the town are as follows, viz :	
On orders drawn,	242 10
Due Superintending School Committee (say)	40 00
Geo. W. Lothrop district in Claremont,	3 16
	<hr/>
	\$285 26

SCHOOL FUND.

Notes in the hands of the Treasurer,	420 85
Money received on note of administrator on estate of	
Jonathan E. Tasker,	50 00
	<hr/>
Whole amount of School Fund,	\$470 85

All of which is respectfully submitted by

JOHN T. BRECK, *Treasurer.*

AGENT'S REPORT.

The undersigned agent appointed to sell wines and spirituous liquors (for the town of Cornish,) from August 31, 1855, to March 31, 1856, reports to March 1st, as follows :

PURCHASES.

Bought 84 gallons of alcohol at 96c. per gallon,	\$800 64
11½ " Holland gin at \$1 80 "	20 70
4½ " Port wine at \$1 68 "	7 56
6½ " Brandy at \$4 06 "	26 39
Amount of purchases,	<hr/> \$135 29

SALES

Sold 61 gallons of alcohol for	\$76 00
7½ " of Holland gin for	17 95
1 " Port wine for	2 57
4½ " Brandy for	22 74
Amount of sales,	<hr/> \$119 26
On hand 23 gallons of alcohol at a cost of	\$22 08
" 4½ " Holland gin at a cost of	7 65
" 3½ " Port wine at a cost of	5 88
" 2 " Brandy at a cost of	8 12
Amount on hand,	<hr/> \$43 73
Amount of sales,	119 26
	<hr/> \$162 99
Amount of purchases,	135 29
	<hr/> \$27 70

Whole No. of sales 350, all for medicinal use except two gallons for mechanical use.

Respectfully submitted by

J. O. WYMAN, *Agent.*

$$\begin{array}{r} 54 \\ 96 \\ \hline 504 \\ 782 \\ \hline 2064 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 96 \\ 24 \\ \hline 384 \\ 768 \\ \hline 8164 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 180 \\ 20 \\ \hline 200 \\ 70 \\ \hline 270 \end{array}$$

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The amount of money raised by taxes for the support of Common Schools the past year was, \$932 75

The amount of money received from Literary Fund was 111 03

The amount of money received from the School Fund of the town was, 35 06

The amount contributed by citizens of different districts in board and wood to lengthen out their schools was 387 75

Making the whole amount appropriated in town for Common Schools the past year, \$1466 53

The present number of school districts in town is 16. There is a primary department in district No. 6 ; making the present number of Schools in town including that department, 17. Schools were taught in each of the districts during the Summer term, except in districts Nos. 3, 12, 13, and 14. During the Winter term school was taught in each of the districts, except in district No. 15.

The number of females employed in teaching school in town the past year was 18. The average compensation paid to them was \$7 02 per month.

The number of males employed in town in teaching school the past year was 9. The average compensation paid to them per month was \$17 07.

The whole number of scholars attending school was 487. The number of scholars over sixteen years of age was 51 ; and the number of scholars between four and sixteen years of age, 436.

The whole amount appropriated to our Common Schools the past year, divided equally among the whole number of scholars is to each scholar \$3 01.

The town has been favored with a good board of teachers. Their examination, in most instances, was sustained with credit to themselves. They appeared, most of them, to be well instructed in the different branches of Common School Education, and the methods of teaching, and governing a school. But while their examination was on the whole highly gratifying, some were not as thoroughly acquainted with English Grammar and all parts of it, as it is important and desirable that they should be. Some were not as familiar as they should have been with the principles and rules of reading. Several were not properly qualified in the sounds of letters and rules of spelling; and in the manner of teaching our children and youth the art of penmanship. It is very desirable that our teachers should be qualified and thoroughly fitted to teach, not only some, and many, but all and every one of the branches of education required to be taught in our Common Schools.

Many of our school teachers are employed in teaching only a single term of 12 weeks during the year. The remainder of the year is devoted generally to other pursuits. It is very desirable that they should keep the studies of the Common School prominent before their mind, and devote their spare moments of time in enlarging their stores of knowledge in the different branches of Common School Education and the best methods of teaching them. By so doing they will become better qualified, from year to year, for the duties of the school-room. With some, it is to be feared, that the studies of the Common School receive but little attention from the close of one school till the commencement of another. Where this is the case, and eight or nine months intervene between their different terms of teaching school, they will be necessarily less fitted for the duties of instruction at the commencement of their next school, than they were at the close of their last school. Instances have occurred, nor are they of very rare occurrence, in which a teacher on examination, is found to be not as well fitted for the business of teaching our children and youth as at some previous examination, perhaps his first examination, directly after leaving some academy, where, under experienced instructors, he had been educated to be a teacher in our Common Schools. At the close of the examination, he sees his deficiency of knowledge of Grammar, Arithmetic, and

some other studies of the school-room. He perhaps excuses himself for his failure to sustain his examination by saying, that he has not looked at his Geography or Arithmetic, &c., since the close of his school last winter or last summer. He thinks he shall meet with no difficulty as a teacher, for he intends to look over the Geography, &c., before entering upon his school, or at least as much as shall be necessary before hearing recitations. Such instances are very unpleasant to a Superintending School Committee. The person under examination may have given, in schools taught, very good satisfaction, and been regarded a successful teacher; and he thinks that he shall succeed in his contemplated school, if the Superintending school committee will give him a certificate. If a certificate is withheld, he thinks hard of the committee; and his friends and the district which expect his services are disappointed and complain that justice was not done to him.

Our school teachers were all qualified before commencing school except one. That teacher was from an adjoining State and perhaps did not know that the Laws of our State require that a teacher receive a certificate from the Superintending school committee before commencing school. The prudential committee perhaps did not recollect that our laws so require. The Superintending school committee however, in kindness to the teacher referred to, gave a certificate.

The requirement of our State School laws, (Revised Statutes, chap. 73, section 8 and 9,) is, "No person shall be employed as a school-master unless he is a citizen of the United States, and shall produce a certificate from the Superintending school committee of the town where such school is to be kept, that he is well qualified to instruct youth in the various branches required to be taught in an English school in this State, and produce satisfactory evidence of his good moral character."

"No person shall be employed as a school-mistress, unless she shall produce a certificate from the Superintending school committee of the town where the school is to be kept, that she is suitably qualified to teach the English language grammatically, and the rudiments of Arithmetic and Geography, and shall produce satisfactory evidence of her good moral character."

It is desirable that a Prudential school committee should be careful to see that the teacher he engages receives a certificate from the Superintending school committee before commencing school. A certificate received by a teacher after commencing school is evidently of no legal value. Should a Prudential School Committee pay such a teacher from the school funds of the district, he is liable, for so doing, to be required to refund the same to the district and to pay the teacher from his own pocket. Judicial courts of this State before which suits of this character have been tried, have decided that a Prudential Committee cannot legally pay from the funds of the district a teacher employed by him if the teacher has not obtained a certificate from the Superintending School Committee before commencing school.

Our schools the past year have been in a great degree prosperous. Peace, harmony and kind feeling have existed between teachers and scholars. No instance of insubordination has come to the notice of the Superintending Committee. Nor has the Committee been called upon to consider the expediency of dismissing any teacher. Seldom has there been a year in which there has been so little to interrupt the successful progress of our schools. While some of our schools have failed to be what they should have been, others have done credit to themselves; and many have been schools of superior character.

Summer school in district No. 11 and winter schools in districts No 1, 13 and 14, have made some improvement, but not that degree of improvement which it is desirable every school should make. There seemed to be too little interest on the part of the scholars in the studies pursued.

Summer schools in districts No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, and winter schools in districts No. 3, 4, 6, (2d department,) 7, 11 and 12, appeared well. Good improvement was made in the different studies to which attention had been given.

The summer schools in districts No. 1, 6, 9, 10, 15 and 16, and the winter schools in districts No. 2, 5, 6, (primary department,) 8, 9, 10 and 16, are worthy of much commendation. Answers given to questions in the various studies were definite and correct.

Scholars appeared to have good understanding of what they attempted to learn.

Parents and citizens of several of the districts have manifested a very good degree of interest in their respective schools by their visits to the school room. The condition and character of the schools in these districts were such as to make it evident, that visits of parents and citizens to our schools is of great benefit. Teachers and scholars by such visits are encouraged and stimulated to perform well their duties in the school room.

The Annual Report of the State Board of Education for 1855, has been received and distributed. It is worthy of careful reading. Its suggestions upon school houses, the branches of common school education and methods of instruction are interesting and important. The reading of it is earnestly recommended to every citizen and parent; especially is the reading of it recommended to every school teacher.

ALVAH SPAULDING, } *Superintending*
WILLIAM BALLOCH, } *School Committee.*

TABLE OF SCHOOLS.

District.	School money	Prudential Committee.	Teachers.	Residence.	No. diff. school.	Weeks School	Wages per month.	Scholars Summer & Winter	Average.	No. Males.	No. Females.	Under sixteen.	Over sixteen.	Visits by S. C.	Visits by P. C.	Visits by cit's.	Given.
1	\$11 60	William Balloch,	Alvera O. Deming,	Cornish.	30	12	\$3 00	17	12	9	8	16	16	2	2	4	\$38 00
2	53 41	John Mercer,	Geo. A. Miller,	Cornish.	26	12	18 00	20	17	14	6	3	17	25	3	25	40 00
3	45 91	James Hildreth,	Sarah L. Pike,	Cornish.	21	18	5 83	18	10	8	5	13	8	44	3	44	30 00
4	47 89	Zeno Hunter,	Henry Ayers,	Cornish.	21	8	5 00	21	17	14	7	16	8	2	2	9	30 00
5	68 15	Tyler N. Higgins,	Sarah A. Chase,	Plainfield.	12	10	5 00	15	13	9	6	15	3	3	3	3	30 00
6	163 61	Chauncey P. Jenny,	Elizabeth A. Miller,	Windor, Vt.	28	10	5 00	23	20	16	7	6	17	3	1	15	
7	84 03	Harrison Leslie,	Harriet Herrick,	Cornish.	24	12	5 83	17	14	7	10	17	21	2	2	240	18 00
8	31 12	Amos Richardson,	Elihu H. Pike,	Plainfield.	87	10	5 33	23	20	9	15	24	2	2	2	110	
9	59 59	J. O. Wyman,	Abby M. Austin,	Cornish.	13	16	5 83	21	25	12	15	27	2	2	2	183	
10	78 89	Jos. Lamberton,	Jennie U. Nevins,	Cornish.	13	16	5 00	39	34	20	19	9	30	3	4	244	35 00
11	73 89	Charles Williams,	Josiah Davis,	Cornish.	44	12	8 00	31	30	13	18	33	2	2	2	110	18 00
12	21 80	S. Knight,	Sarah L. Hart,	Cornish.	44	9	7 00	38	33	16	20	4	32	2	2	18	
13	51 94	John Q. York,	Henry E. Rich,	Cornish.	12	6	7 00	31	29	12	29	1	28	1	1	115	
14	22 78	William Pool,	S. Louisa Richardson,	Cornish.	15	12	6 00	38	33	24	15	6	33	3	2	240	
15	14 34	Wm. E. Chadborn,	Elizabeth C. Deming,	Cornish.	40	10	6 00	9	7	6	8	9	2	2	2	6	16 00
16	46 83	Samuel P. Thrasher,	Elizabeth C. Deming,	Cornish.	47	12	6 00	23	19	8	14	22	21	2	1	11	48 00
			Elizabeth A. Ayers,	Cornish.	47	9	23 00	38	34	17	19	9	29	2	1	8	
			Geo. A. Vinton,	Cornish.	47	12	6 50	33	25	15	18	33	2	1	1	48	
			Mary M. Hammond,	Claremont.	4	4	6 00	32	30	16	16	32	2	2	2	10	
			Elizabeth C. Deming,	Cornish.	17	11	17 00	31	25	13	13	5	26	2	2	10	17 75
			Harriet R. Miller,	Plainfield.	16	11	8 00	16	12	8	8	2	14	2	2	3	
			Mary A. Harlow,	Windor, Vt.	10	12	8 00	10	7	3	7	1	9	2	2	13	13 50
			Sarah A. Blodgett,	Newport.	15	9	8 00	15	10	8	7	15	2	2	2	18	18 00
			Abby A. Harlow,	Cornish.	14	12	6 00	14	9	9	5	14	2	2	2	16	35 50
			Laura J. Martindale,	Cornish.	26	12	5 00	15	19	4	10	15	2	2	2	20	
				Cornish.	11	11	9 00	17	14	8	9	3	14	2	2	2	